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**FORMER CARPENTERS UNION SHOP STEWARD SENTENCED TO FIVE
YEARS IN PRISON FOR HELPING TO STEAL MONEY
FROM EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MICHAEL ANNUCCI, also known as "Mickey Annucci" -- a former shop steward and Executive Delegate of Local 157 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (the "Carpenters Union") -- was sentenced today to five years in prison by United States District Judge BARBARA S. JONES in Manhattan federal court. The sentence follows ANNUCCI's conviction on February 7, 2008, after an eight-day jury trial, for: conspiracy, wire fraud, aiding and abetting the embezzlement of funds from employee benefit plans, and receipt of bribes by a labor representative. According to documents filed in the case and the evidence presented at trial before Judge JONES:

ANNUCCI served as a shop steward for the District Council, an Executive Delegate to the District Council representing Local 157 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and a member of the District Council's trial committee - which imposed discipline on carpenters who broke union rules. From July 2001 through February 2006, ANNUCCI was the shop steward for a Manhattan jobsite of L&D Installers, Inc. ("L&D"), a furniture installation and construction contractor. L&D was a party to a collective bargaining agreement ("CBA") with the District Council, pursuant to which L&D was obligated to pay all of its workers at a specified hourly rate and to make contributions for each hour worked to District Council benefit funds, which provide life insurance, hospitalization, medical care, pension and vacation benefits to union members.

As a shop steward, ANNUCCI was required to enforce the CBA by submitting weekly reports to the District Council setting forth the hours worked by each of carpenters assigned to the jobsite. The union's auditors rely on the accuracy of shop

steward reports in auditing contractors to ensure that all benefits contributions have been paid.

ANNUCCI, however, omitted more than 22,000 hours from his shop steward reports, thereby enabling L&D to cheat the benefit funds out of hundreds of thousands of dollars it owed. ANNUCCI submitted false shop steward reports to the union, on a weekly basis, for nearly five years. As a result, carpenters got paid lower wages and lost credit towards pension, vacation and retirement benefits, and some lost their health care coverage. At the same time, L&D paid ANNUCCI for hundreds of overtime hours and at least 80 days that ANNUCCI did not work.

In sentencing ANNUCCI, Judge JONES stated that "this is a very serious offense," and that the length of the sentence is necessary "to send a message to other union members and executives that this type of conduct will not be tolerated." In addition to the prison term, Judge JONES sentenced ANNUCCI to two years supervised release. He is to surrender to begin serving his sentence next month.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

Assistant United States Attorneys LISA ZORNBERG and KATHERINE GOLDSTEIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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